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T-287 P02/16 U-234

Appl. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended): In combination with a multi-part housing configured to accommodate electric components and electronic components, the multi-part housing having a first housing part and at least a second housing part, the first housing part having an opening formed therein and being connectable to the second housing part, the opening in the first housing part being a slot-shaped opening defining a longitudinal direction, the slot having lateral borders extending substantially parallel to one another, a device for locking the first housing part and the second housing part to one another, the device comprising:

a locking element being shaped for and disposed in the slot-shaped opening, said locking element having given parts configured to be in contact with sections of the lateral borders, said locking element being configured to be movable in the longitudinal direction between a locking position and an unlocking position;

Appl. No. 10/006,432
Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

said locking element, in the locking position, connecting the first housing part to the second housing part in at least one of a form-locking and a force-locking manner;

said locking element, in the unlocking position, releasing a connection between the first housing part and the second housing part; and

a blocking element disposed in said locking element, said blocking element blocking said locking element from being adjusted at least in the locking position;

said blocking element operably disposing said given parts of said locking element into force-locking abutment against the sections of the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.

2 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein the multi-part housing is a telecommunications system housing, the first housing part is a shroud, and the second housing part is a bottom housing part.

3 (canceled).

Appl. No. 10/006,432
Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

4 (currently amended): The device according to claim [[3]] 1,
wherein:

the first housing part has an outer wall; and

said locking element has an actuating surface adjacent to the
outer wall of the first housing part and has a sliding and
arresting body extending through the slot-shaped opening.

5 (previously presented): In combination with a multi-part
housing configured to accommodate electric components and
electronic components, the multi-part housing having a first
housing part and at least a second housing part, the first
housing part having an opening formed therein and an outer
wall and being connectable to the second housing part, the
opening in the first housing part being a slot-shaped opening
defining a longitudinal direction, the slot-shaped opening
having lateral borders extending substantially parallel to
one another, a device for locking the first housing part and
the second housing part to one another, the device
comprising:

a locking element being shaped for and disposed in the slot-
shaped opening, said locking element being configured to be
movable between a locking position and an unlocking position,

02-17-'04 14:56 FROM-Lerner & Greenberg +9549251101

T-287 P05/16 U-234

Appl. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

said locking element having given parts configured to be in contact with sections of the lateral borders;

said locking element having an actuating surface adjacent the outer wall of the first housing part and having a sliding and arresting body extending through the slot-shaped opening, said sliding and arresting body being a hollow body having wall sections, parts of said wall sections forming sliding elements extending parallel to and abutting against the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening in the first housing part;

said locking element, in the locking position, connecting the first housing part to the second housing part in at least one of a form-locking and a force-locking manner;

said locking element, in the unlocking position, releasing a connection between the first housing part and the second housing part; and

a blocking element connected to said locking element, said blocking element blocking said locking element from being adjusted at least in the locking position, said blocking element operably placing said given parts of said locking

Appl. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

element into force-locking abutment against the sections of the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.

6 (previously presented): The device according to claim 5, wherein:

said wall sections of said sliding and arresting body are configured to be movable perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction; and

said blocking element is disposed in said locking element and, in the locking position, operably disposes said sliding elements of said wall sections into force-locking abutment against the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.

7 (previously presented): The device according to claim 6, wherein:

said wall sections of said sliding and arresting body have latching protrusions; and

said locking element is configured such that, when said sliding and arresting body is disposed in the slot-shaped opening, said wall sections and said protrusions are resiliently disposed along the lateral borders of the slot-

Appl. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

shaped opening, said locking element is connected to the first housing part in a form-locking manner and said sliding elements butt against the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.

8 (original): The device according to claim 5, wherein:

the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening have notches formed therein; and

said sliding elements are sliding webs latching into said notches of the lateral borders, if said locking element is in given positions.

9 (original): The device according to claim 8, wherein:

said sliding webs are centrally disposed on said locking element; and

the notches are disposed at the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening, such that, in the locking position and in the unlocking position of said locking element, said sliding webs are latched in the notches.

10 (original): The device according to claim 9, wherein:

02-17-'04 14:56 FROM-Lerner & Greenberg

+9549251101

T-287 P08/16 U-234

Appl. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

said blocking element is a rotary locking device with an adjusting part and a rotary pin projecting perpendicularly from said adjusting part;

said adjusting part is disposed integrated in said actuating surface of said locking element; and

said rotary pin has lateral clamping webs configured to abut against said wall sections of said sliding and arresting body of said locking element if said adjusting part is rotated.

11 (original): The device according to claim 10, wherein said adjusting part is configured to be adjustable into a locking position and an unlocking position only if said sliding webs are latched into one of the notches of the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening of the first housing part.

12 (original): The device according to claim 4, wherein:

the first housing part has a wall section adjacent to the slot-shaped opening, the wall section has a depression formed therein; and

02-17-'04 14:56 FROM-Lerner & Greenberg +9549251101

T-287 P09/16 U-234

Appl. No. 10/006,432
Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

said actuating surface of said locking element is disposed in the depression.

13 (original): The device according to claim 10, wherein:

the actuating surface of said locking element has a depression formed therein configured to accommodate said adjusting part of said blocking element; and

said adjusting part is configured as a circular disk having one of an actuating slot and an actuating web formed centrally therein.

14 (original): The device according to claim 13, wherein said actuating surface of said locking element has a keyhole opening formed therein for accommodating said rotary pin and said lateral clamping webs of said blocking element.

15 (original): The device according to claim 14, wherein said keyhole opening is disposed diagonally in relation to said wall sections of said sliding and arresting body of said locking element.

16 (original): The device according to claim 15, wherein:

02-17-'04 14:57 FROM-Lerner & Greenberg

+9549251101

T-287 P10/16 U-234

App1. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

said adjusting part has an underside and a nose disposed on said underside, said nose is aligned with said lateral clamping webs projecting from opposite sides of said rotary pin; and

said depression in said actuating surface has a groove formed therein for accommodating said adjusting part, said groove is configured as a part-circular groove and said nose engages in said groove.

17 (original): The device according to claim 16, wherein said keyhole opening has a given depth with respect to said actuating surface, said lateral clamping webs of said blocking element are spaced from said underside of said adjusting part at least by an extent of the given depth of said keyhole opening.

18 (original): The device according to claim 16, wherein said locking element has a web disposed in said groove, said web subdivides said groove into an insertion region and an adjusting region for said blocking element, said insertion region is substantially aligned with said keyhole opening and is configured to accommodate said nose.

Appl. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

19 (original): The device according to claim 18, wherein said web has an oblique surface directed toward said insertion region and has a vertical surface directed toward said adjusting region, said web is configured such that once said blocking element is inserted into said locking element and said web is overcome, said blocking element is adjustable by an angular extent of said adjusting region between a locking position and an unlocking position.

20 (original): The device according to claim 19, wherein said locking element has rounded protrusions disposed in said adjusting region for setting the locking position and the unlocking position.

21 (original): The device according to claim 16, wherein:

said adjusting part has a further nose disposed diametrically opposite from said nose on said underside;

said depression in said actuating surface has a further groove formed therein, said further groove is configured as a continuous, part-circular groove for accommodating said further nose; and

Appl. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

said locking element has separating webs for separating said groove from said further groove.

22 (original): The device according to claim 13, wherein said actuating surface of said locking element has finger hollows formed therein, said finger hollows are disposed adjacent to said depression accommodating said adjusting part of said blocking element.

23 (currently amended): A multi-part housing configuration, comprising:

a first housing part and at least a second housing part, said first housing part having an opening formed therein and being connectable to said second housing part, said opening in said first housing part being a slot-shaped opening defining a longitudinal direction, the slot-shaped opening having lateral borders extending substantially parallel to one another;

a locking element disposed in said slot-shaped opening and having given parts configured to be in contact with sections of the lateral borders, said locking element being configured to be movable in the longitudinal direction between a locking position and an unlocking position and being displaceable in

02-17-'04 14:57 FROM-Lerner & Greenberg +9549251101

T-287 P13/16 U-234

Appl. No. 10/006,432

Amdt. Dated February 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003

the longitudinal direction between the locking position and the unlocking position;

said locking element, in the locking position, connecting said first housing part to said second housing part in at least one of a form-locking and a force-locking manner;

said locking element, in the unlocking position, releasing a connection between the first housing part and the second housing part; and

a blocking element disposed in said locking element, said blocking element blocking said locking element from being adjusted at least in the locking position and operably disposing said given parts of said locking element into force-locking abutment against the sections of the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.